

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 PER-01 AID-05 /073 W

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R 100755Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7545

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 0047

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: APER PFOR PINS US TH LA

SUBJECT: TALK WITH THAI CHARGE CONCERNING EMBASSY THAI EMPLOYEES

1. THAI CHARGE CHET NAVARAT CALLED ON ME JANUARY 10 TO FOLLOW UP EARLIER DISCUSSION WITH EMBOFF REGARDING PROBLEMS OF OUR THAI EMPLOYEES, PARTICULARLY IN REFERENCE TO ATTENDANCE AT LPDR SEMINARS. RECALLING THAT HE HAD TAKEN THE LINE THAT IT WOULD BE BEST TO LET EACH THAI EMPLOYEE DECIDE FOR HIMSELF WHETHER OR NOT TO REMAIN IN LAOS WORKING FOR THE U.S. EMBASSY, HE SUGGESTED IT MIGHT BE A GOOD IDEA FOR THE U.S. EMBASSY TO TELL THE LPDR FOREIGN OFFICE THAT ATTENDANCE AT SEMINARS BY THAI EMPLOYEES WOULD HINDER THE OPERATIONS OF THE EMBASSY.

2. I TOLD CHET THAT I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE A BAD IDEA TO FOCUS LPDR ATTENTION ON INDIVIDUAL THAI EMPLOYEES BY DESCRIBING THEM AS SO IMPORTANT THAT THEIR ATTENDANCE AT SEMINARS WOULD HINDER OUR OPERATION. I ALSO EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT ON THE BASIS OF MY
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EXPERIENCE THE LPDR COULD NOT CARE LESS ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT OUR OPERATIONS WERE HINDERED.

3. I RECAPITULATED THE STATUS OF ELEVEN THAI EMPLOYEES AS FOLLOWS:

A. TWO THAI EMPLOYEES HAD ATTENDED SEMINARS,

APPARENTLY WITHOUT ILL EFFECTS.

B. FOUR THAI EMPLOYEES HAD DECIDED ON THEIR OWN INITIATIVE TO RETURN TO THAILAND.

C. ONE THAI EMPLOYEE ARRESTED NOVEMBER 28, 1976 IS TILL ON OUR ROLLS AND WE ARE TRYING DISCREETLY TO FIND OUT FROM THE FOREIGN OFFICE WHAT HIS PROSPECTS ARE.

D. WE HAVE ORALLY INFORMED THE FOREIGN OFFICE THAT THREE THAI EMPLOYEES WHOM WE RECRUITED ORIGINALLY IN THAILAND FOR SPECIFIC POSITIONS IN OUR EMBASSY HERE SHOULD NOT BE REQUIRED TO ATTEND SEMINAAS AND WE WERE NOT THEREFORE DESIGNATING THEM TO DO SO. THE FOREIGN OFFICE SEED TO BE GOING ALONG WITH OUR VIEW ON THESE THREE EMPLOYEES.

E. ONE THAI EMPLOYEE, YEM TAEW-YOO, WAS ARRESTED ON MARCH 1, 1976 AND WE HAVE HEARD NOTHING OFFICIALLY ABOUT HIM SINCE. HE HAS BEEN DROPPED FROM THE ROLLS. WE HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE THAT HE HAD BEEN CONFINED IN THE SAM KHE PRISON AND ESCAPED DURING THE APRIL, 1976 PRISON BREAK.

4. I TOLD CHET THAT WHEN ANY OF OUR LOCAL EMPLOYEES WERE ARRESTED WE WAITED A COUPLE OF DAYS TO SEE IF THEY WOULD BE RELEASED PROMPTLY AND IF THEY WERE NOT WENT ON RECORD WITH THE FOREIGN OFFICE TO THE EFFECT CONFIDENTIAL

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THAT WE BELIEVED THEY WERE UNDER ARREST AND WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHAT HAD HAPPENED TO THEM. SOMETIMES THE FOREIGN OFFICE REPLIED AND SOMETIMES IT DID NOT. SOMETIMES THE EMPLOYEES WERE RELEASED AND SOMETIMES THEY WERE NOT. WHEN ANY OF OUR THAI EMPLOYEES DECIDED TO RETURN TO THAILAND, WE DID OUR BEST TO RECOMMEND THEM FOR FURTHER EMPLOYMENT.
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